



Marshfield Harbormaster Department



Shellfish Rules and Regulations

1. The signed permit must be on the person of anyone in the act of harvesting shellfish, eels, and sea worms, and must be shown upon demand to the Shellfish Constable or his wardens.
2. Any shellfish, sea worms or eels harvested must be shown upon demand to the Shellfish Constable or a designee for inspection.
3. Shellfish harvesting is permitted two days a week on Wednesdays and Sundays, beginning at ½ hour after sunrise and finishing ½ hour before sunset.
4. All shellfish must be dug with conventional tined tools. No shovels or power assisted apparatuses are permitted.
5. It is prohibited to dig for any shellfish or sea worms in grass, close to roots or disrupt the banking of any marsh.
6. It is unlawful to remove any shells from a shellfish before leaving the digging area.
7. All holes dug must be filled in by the digger before leaving the digging area.
8. It is unlawful to harvest soft shell clams that are less than 2 inches in diameter.
9. No containers larger than 10 *qts.* are allowed on shore, creek or inlet.
10. Permits are required for all persons over the age of 16. Those 16 and under must be accompanied by a permit holder whose limit is not increased by the presence of a child.
11. Soft shell clams, mussels and razors clams are limited to 8 *qts.* per week per family. The total amount harvested shall not exceed 8 *qts.* in one day. No more than 8 *qts.* in one week, unless otherwise stated.
12. Open areas will be designated by the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries. These areas only are to be harvested:
 - A. Soft Shelled clams may only be taken from **January 1st** to **May 31st** per order of the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries.
on **Wednesdays** and **Sundays**.
 - B. Other shellfish harvesting will be as designated by the Board of Selectman annually when appropriate.
13. It is unlawful for persons to harvest any part of another's limit.
14. No shellfish taken on non commercial permits may be sold, wasted or bartered in any manner.
15. When harvesting sea clams, the limit shall be 8 quarts per week per family. Commercial harvesting see state regulations.
16. There shall be no digging of shellfish below 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

17. **Purpose**

- A. To regulate the harvesting of all Living Marine Resources within the Town of Marshfield.
- B. To establish a policy and program that will protect conservation of marine resources for the waters of the Town of Marshfield.

18. **Management and Conservation of Marshfield Marine Natural Resource are as follows:**

- A. The shellfish beds, flats and marshes of the Town of Marshfield are a valuable resource. These beds, flats and marshes, being a marine natural resource, will be managed in a way that will insure that resources will remain viable.
- B. The management process will establish guidelines that will regulate the size and quantities of shellfish, eels, and sea worms which may be harvested, by restricting areas which may be harvested and taking other measures which are outlined in the regulations.

19. **Definitions**

Harvesting: Shall include the activity of digging for or taking of shellfish, sea worms, or eels.

20. **Resident**

- A. A person who is a property owner or a resident within the Town of Marshfield.
- B. Resident senior citizens of the Town of Marshfield who are 65 years of age and older will be issued a permit free of charge.

21. **Nonresidents**

- A. Any nonresident of the Town of Marshfield may be issued a permit that will entitle the holder to take shellfish, sea worms or eels for consumption or to be used as bait but not to exceed 8 *quarts* in total in one day and will be limited to 8*quarts* per week per family.

22. **General Rules and Regulations**

- A. Shellfish permits for residents are ten dollars (\$10.00) . Non-Resident permits are twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) on an annual basis.
- B. Holders of permits issued for the taking of shellfish, eels, and sea worms in the Town of Marshfield, shall conform to applicable Town-by Laws and State laws defined in Chapter 130 Sec. 53 of the Massachusetts General Laws.
- C All persons are prohibited from taking eels without a permit, except with hook and line.
- D. A signed permit must be on the person that is in the act of harvesting any marine resource within the Town of Marshfield.
- E. Upon demand, all clams, eels, and shellfish must be shown to the Shellfish Constable, or designee.

F. Shellfish, eels, and sea worms harvesting areas will be designated by the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries.

G. All permit information will be recorded with the Harbormaster and kept on file at the Marshfield Harbormasters Department.

H. No person shall plant, introduce, or transplant any shellfish without written permission from the Massachusetts Department of Marine Fisheries.

The penalty for such violations is \$300.00 for each offense pursuant to the Town-By laws of Marshfield . State laws concerning local control of shellfisheries are outlined in Chapter 130 Section 53 of Massachusetts General Laws. **Any violation is grounds for revocation of permit by Shellfish Constable or designee.**

Quahog	1" shell thickness	consult town regulations
Softshell Clam	2" shell diameter	consult town regulations
American Eel (1)	All Year	6 in 50 fish
Surf Clam	5" shell diameter	consult town regulations